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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0933

INFO RUEHDL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 8907

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1187

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 006518

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PTER PHUM IR TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH MFA'S RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE ON IRANIAN
PRESIDENT'S EXTREMISM

REF: A. STATE 199225

1B. STATE 199863

11. (SBU) On 31 October 2005, POLCOUNS and POLOFF delivered to Turkish MFA Acting Director General for Middle Eastern Affairs Ambassador Aydin Evirgen reftel demarches. Evirgen responded by saying, "we share the same views on Ahmadi-Nejad's statement" and that it was "completely unacceptable." He also informed us that FM/DPM Gul will be delivering a public statement on this issue at a press conference on 1 November 2005 at 9:45 AM (Ankara time). Evirgen said that Gul's statement would provide a "tougher message" than Turkish authorities have delivered to date.

12. (U) Turkish reactions to date have consisted of:

-- Prime Minister Erdogan responding to a question at an October 27 London press conference at which he called on Ahmadi-Nejad to display political moderation; and

-- MFA spokesmen Namik Tan's response to a question on October 28th when he stated that the MFA did not have the full text of the remarks, but added that it was "not possible to approve" of Ahmadi-Nejad's statement. He stated that "Turkey continues to pursue relations with all countries in the region based on...mutual respect and cooperation and believes that the conflicts in the region can only be resolved through dialogue and peaceful methods based on international legitimacy."

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